From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for January 14, 2019
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Courts / Rulings

Judge likely to shut down San Francisco's bail schedule
A federal judge will likely rule San Francisco's bail schedule unconstitutional, saying at a hearing Tuesday she could find no justification for the amount of money it demands arrestees pay to avoid sitting in jail. The absence of a link between the fees outlined in the schedule and the state's compelling interest means the schedule likely won't pass constitutional muster.
Courthouse News Service

Court says California violates rights of poor defendants by imposing fees
California is violating the rights of poor defendants by attaching fees to misdemeanor criminal convictions regardless of their ability to pay, a state appeals court ruled Tuesday. California is violating the rights of poor defendants by attaching fees to misdemeanor criminal convictions regardless of their ability to pay, a state appeals court ruled Tuesday.
San Francisco Chronicle

Law barring illegal aliens from having guns is constitutional
The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday joined five of other circuits in rejecting a Second Amendment challenge to a federal law prohibiting unlawful aliens from possessing firearms, though it did so without making a definitive determination as to whether such persons are covered by the amendment. Senior Circuit Judge N. Randy Smith wrote the opinion.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

In rare move, California Supreme Court denies 10 clemency requests
The California Supreme Court denied 10 clemency requests by former Gov. Jerry Brown, the first time it has exercised that power in more than half a century. Brown granted a historic 1,332 pardons and 283 commutations during his final two terms as part of a push to scale back the state's tough-on-crime approach that began under his first governorship.
AP

Elected officials cannot silence critics on social media, appeals court rules
An elected official in Virginia violated the First Amendment when she temporarily blocked a constituent on Facebook, a federal appeals court ruled Monday, in a novel case with implications for how government officials nationwide interact with constituents on social media. The unanimous ruling from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit is the first from an appeals court to answer the question of whether free speech protections prevent public officials from barring critics from their social media feeds.
Washington Post

Facebook postings about ex-husband can be barred - C.A.
The First District Court of Appeal has held that a woman can be barred, pursuant to the Domestic Violence Prevention Act, from posting on the Internet humiliating information concerning her ex-husband, rejecting her contention that the order constitutes an unconstitutional prior restraint. Writing for Div. Two, Justice Marla J. Miller said in an unpublished opinion, filed Monday, that the restraining order that was imposed only incidentally affects the woman's speech rights.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

USC ignored likelihood that female student invented rape to not get fired, appeals court rules
The era of serious punishments based on a single official's investigation is over at the University of Southern California. For the second time in less than a month, a California appeals court ruled that the private university denied a student accused of rape a fair hearing, and that the same Title IX official conducted a shoddy investigation.
The College Fix

Should state adopt lower passing score for the bar exam? Current one may harm students of color
A continuing decline in California's bar exam pass rate is prompting nearly all of the state's law school deans to call for an overhaul of the exam. They suggest the state's minimum passing score of 144 is too high, compared to the national average of 135, and disproportionately keeps African-American and Latino law graduates from entering the profession.
Sacramento Bee

Can a state be hauled into another state's courts? Supreme Court tries to decide
The Supreme Court tried for the third time Wednesday to resolve a decades-old legal battle between California and Nevada whose roots date back to the nation's founding. At stake is an important issue of states' rights: Can a state be hauled into another state's court system against its will? Forty years ago, the high court allowed it. But times - and all the justices - have changed.
USA Today

Prop 47, 57 & AB 109

Jerry Brown interview transcript: On fights worth fighting, runaway legislatures and 'stupid' laws
"Even the criminal law, something as simple as enhancements or credits. They're sufficiently complicated that the judicial authorities make mistakes all the time, not knowing what the sentence is, because the law is so complicated the judges can't figure it out. Now I've corrected that, in part, with (Proposition) 57 in allowing the secretary of corrections to set the terms and credits."

San Francisco Chronicle

Pulling back government, reducing poverty in California
One of the great indignities of the Golden State is California's status as the state with the highest rate of poverty in the nation. According to the Census bureau's supplemental poverty study, 19 percent of Californians live in poverty. Another index, the California Poverty Measure, produced by the Public Policy Institute of California and the Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, says that 40 percent of Californians live in or near poverty.
Riverside Press-Enterprise

Prosecutions

SJPD is sending some gun crimes to federal court (Video)
San Jose Police has begun referring some gun crimes for federal prosecution now that California law considers them "non-violent" and eligible for early release. The new program focuses on felons in possession of firearms and drug dealing with guns.
San Jose Police Department

New murder accomplice law expected to face legal challenge by San Diego DA
The San Diego County District Attorney's Office plans to challenge a new state law that could release from prison people serving time for murder when they didn't do the actual killing but were accomplices. Assistant District Attorney David Greenberg told inewsource that the first time an accomplice convicted of murder in the county petitions for resentencing under the law, which took effect Jan. 1, the office intends to question its constitutionality.
KPBS

District Attorney Jackie Lacey announces changes to executive management in her office
Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey today unveiled her new executive management team, which will work alongside her to attain the goals of her administration and help maintain the office's standing as a national leader among prosecutorial agencies. In assembling her new team, District Attorney Lacey focused on the leadership and expertise demonstrated by each person and the diversity within her office.
Pasadena News Now

55 prosecutors and law enforcement officials sign statement supporting St. Louis' prosecutor's "Brady List"
On Wednesday, 55 current and former prosecutors and law enforcement officials signed a statement in support of St. Louis City Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner's efforts to implement a Brady list - or "exclusion list" - of problem St. Louis police officers found to have been dishonest.

According to Gardner in August, she reported to the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department that her office had created a Brady list comprised of 28 officers who would be excluded from serving as witnesses in criminal cases.
Witness LA

City attorney charges four with alleged crimes vs. immigrants
Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer Tuesday announced the filing of criminal cases against four people, including an Orange County man who allegedly threatened to have a Hispanic day laborer arrested and deported after he filed a state claim seeking to be paid for his work and three Los Angeles residents who are accused of illegally acting as immigration consultants.
My News LA

Federal complaint details suspected Newman police shooter's every move after the crime
New details are painting a picture of what happened after Newman police Cpl. Ronil Singh was shot and killed on December 26. According to a criminal complaint filed by federal prosecutors, Pablo Mendoza (also known as Gustavo Arriaga), the man charged in Singh's death, allegedly stopped at the trailer park where he lived with his girlfriend in Newman after his encounter with Singh.
ABC7

Defense: Other partner killed McStays, buried them in desert
Greed, debt and a gambling problem drove a Southern California man to kill his business partner's family with a sledgehammer and bury their bodies in the desert, prosecutors said Monday. But the defense said authorities are charging the wrong man and the real culprit is another business partner. Opening arguments were held in the trial of Charles "Chase" Merritt. Merritt, 61, has pleaded not guilty.
AP

New San Bernardino County District Attorney swears in
San Bernardino County District Attorney Jason Anderson was sworn into office Tuesday, Jan. 8 during the board of supervisors meeting, surrounded by friends, family, colleagues and representatives from the law enforcement community. For five years, Anderson has run a private practice in Rancho Cucamonga. But he spent 17 years prior to that as a county prosecutor, working on crimes against children.
Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

Todd Spitzer, Orange County's first new D.A. in two decades, takes the oath of office
Hundreds packed into a Chapman University auditorium Monday to see Todd Spitzer sworn in as Orange County's first new district attorney in two decades. Retired Justice John Arguelles administered the oath of office. The public, various elected officials and legal professionals

watched as Spitzer pledged expansive changes to the prosecutor's office.
Daily Pilot

How Robert Blake's bold and unpredictable personality played into trials for his wife's murder
If there's one thing actor Robert Blake wants people to know, it's that he's not done fighting - despite the curve balls life has thrown his way. "I'm 85 years old, I'm beat up all to hell and gone but I'm still here," Blake told ABC News in an exclusive interview. Blake has been a household name for generations of Americans from his decades in TV and film.
ABC7

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

New transparency law exposes Burlingame police officer's misconduct firing
A Bay Area police officer was fired last year after telling a woman he'd help her with her drunk driving charge if she agreed to have sex with him, according to information just brought to light by a new transparency law. The law that went into effect January 1 gives the public access to law enforcement personnel files. State Senator Nancy Skinner (D-Berkeley) authored the bill.
CBS SF Bay Area

Crime

Gunned down on her beat: Officer Natalie Corona mourned as suspect found dead in Davis home
The call came into Davis police just before 7 p.m. Thursday, a three-car accident near 5th and D streets that by any measure would be considered routine. Officer Natalie Corona, 22, who graduated from the Sacramento Police Department's training academy in July and completed her field training just before Christmas, responded to the scene alone.
Sacramento Bee

Prowler charged with murder in shooting of father at Malibu campground
A man accused of opening fire on campers and drivers in the Malibu State Park Area was charged Monday with murder in the fatal shooting of a 35-year-old father killed while he slept next to his daughters at a campground. Authorities said this week they had finally assembled enough evidence to link the June 22 killing of the young father to the arrest of a reputed serial burglar, caught last October in a steep, brush-covered ravine near the park while armed with a rifle.
NBC4

Anti-semitic suspect tried to run over Jews near synagogue?

Judge refuses to lower bail
A judge refused Thursday to lower the $1 million bail for a Seattle resident who allegedly tried to run over two men outside a synagogue in a Jewish neighborhood in the Wilshire area while yelling anti-Semitic remarks last November. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Deborah S. Brazil denied the defense's motion to lower bail for Mohamed Abdi Mohamed or to release the 33-year-old defendant on his own recognizance.
My News LA

Ex-con who spent 17 years in prison arrested for deadly Torrance bowling alley shooting
A man was arrested related to a shooting that killed three men and injured four others during a brawl at a popular Torrance bowling alley and karaoke bar, according to the Torrance Police Department Monday. Reginald Wallace, 47, of Los Angeles was arrested and being held without bail at the Los Angeles County Jail, Torrance Police Chief Eve Irvine said at a news conference.
NBC4

Visalia officer-involved shooting suspect had violent past
The standoff on East 4th Avenue in Visalia on Thursday afternoon lasted for hours. At one point, Visalia Police used a chemical agent to try to get Abiel Rios to come out, but Rios responded by firing his shotgun through a window. He also put a machete to his throat, told officers to kill him, and eventually, police say, pointed the shotgun at them - forcing one officer to shoot and kill him.
ABC30

Woman allegedly gets upset handyman won't do extra work, shoots him twice
A woman upset that a handyman would not do extra work he was unauthorized to do allegedly struck the man with an object and shot him in the face and chest in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Los Angeles on Sunday, according to the Los Angeles Police Department. The shooting took place at a duplex on the 6200 block of Victoria Avenue around noon.
NBC4

Man found dead in Ed Buck's apartment is identified
An African-American man was found dead early this morning in the Laurel Avenue apartment of Ed Buck, where a death in July 2017 sparked a protest about its handling by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and about the reaction to the incident by Democratic Party politicians. Sheriff's deputies and the coroner were on the scene at 1234 Laurel Ave. at around 3:15 a.m. according to nearby residents.
WEHOville

Bingo Bust: LAPD shuts down Senior home's 'illegal gambling'

Some senior citizens say the Los Angeles Police Department shut down their bingo game. Karen Adams has been playing bingo in her retirement community for eight years. The crowd may not look too excited about the game, but Adams insist they love it. "People can't wait to bingo, bingo, bingo!" she said. Adams and her neighbors organized the game. They pitch in 25 cents a card. That pays for prizes they buy at the 99 Cents Store.
NBC4

Vacaville man learns $10 million reason not to tell your roommate you won the lottery
This past Christmas, a man in Vacaville learned a grim, but useful, holiday lesson: Sometimes, don't spread glad tidings. Keep the good news to yourself. It was Dec. 20, when the man went to a Lucky grocery store and paid $30 for a scratch-off lottery ticket that odds said would leave him at a loss. The ticket turned out to be a big winner, bringing him $10,000 - or so he thought. He couldn't contain his excitement.
Washington Post

The key to bringing down El Chapo? Flipping his IT guy.
In February 2010, Cristian Rodriguez showed up at a Manhattan hotel expecting to attend a business meeting of sorts. An information technology expert living in Colombia, he had previously set up an encrypted communications system for Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán, making it impossible for law enforcement to eavesdrop on phone calls placed by the alleged leader of the notorious Sinaloa Cartel.
Washington Post

DNA evidence clears alleged Golden State Killer, Joseph DeAngelo, of 1975 murder
Joseph DeAngelo, the man alleged to be the long-sought 'Golden State Killer,' has been cleared in the 1975 murder of 14-year-old Donna Jo Richmond in Exeter, California. Richmond was beaten, strangled and stabbed 17 times; Oscar Clifton, a convicted sex offender, was found guilty of the murder and sentenced to life in prison, where he died in 2013.
RollingStone

Police say accused prowler's behavior is alarming
A San Pedro woman said an intruder broke into her home while her family was gone, but when they arrived, he was still there, hiding on the patio. She saw him run off - but that wasn't the last time she would see him. "I ran after him and he stepped up here, and he climbed that way and I saw his face," Lissett Bonilla said.
NBC4

Policy & Legal Issues

ADDA President Michele Hanisee with KABC's Royal Oakes

(Video)
LA ADDA

Reentry program offers San Bernardino County inmates a chance to stop cycle of incarceration
When 37-year-old Jason was about to be released from jail earlier this year, he didn't know what he was going to do. He did know, however, that he didn't want to return to the life that had him cycling through jail and living on the streets. Luckily he found out about the San Bernardino County Sheriff's S.T.A.R.T. (Sheriff's Transitional Assistance Reentry Team) program.
Public CEO

Mental illness increasingly helps defendants avoid trial. But not always.
More than two years after the murder of Stanislaus County Deputy Sheriff Dennis Wallace, a case against the accused shooter remains on hold because he was declared mentally incapable of standing trial. On Wednesday, the county's latest accused cop killer - Paulo Virgen Mendoza, formerly identified as Gustavo Perez Arriaga - appeared headed down the same road.
Modesto Bee

Riv. Co. supervisors approve "Prison to Employment Program" funds
Riverside County supervisors signed off Tuesday on an agency's efforts to set up a program aimed at helping ex-cons, probationers and other "justice-involved'' individuals find employment. "I want to thank staff for their forward thinking on this,'' Supervisor Manuel Perez said. "We have to make sure to bring in resources, especially when it comes to the pipeline of folks who were formerly incarcerated. The best social service program is a job.''
City News Service

California police unions are preparing to battle new transparency law in the courtroom
Just as a landmark police transparency law is going into effect, some California police agencies are shredding internal affairs documents and law enforcement unions are rushing to block the information from being released. The new law, which begins to unwind California's strictest-in-the-nation protections over the secrecy of law enforcement records, opens to the public internal investigations of officer shootings and other major uses of force, along with confirmed cases of sexual assault and lying while on duty.
Los Angeles Times

Parole & Pardons

'It was like a ton of bricks crushed me': California grapples with

historic clemency rejections
Joe Hernandez found out that the California Supreme Court had rejected his commutation request late last month during a phone call with his wife, when she checked the online docket for his case. The two talk daily while Hernandez, 47, serves a life sentence without the possibility of parole, plus another 46 years to life, for two murders he committed in 1993.
Merced Sun Star

LA district attorney opposed pardon for former state legislator
California Gov. Jerry Brown's recent pardon of former state Sen. Roderick Wright was supported by several of the state's top political figures but opposed by Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey, who said it would undermine a fundamental state law, according to court documents unsealed Thursday.
Los Angeles Times

Gov. Brown opens door for three SJ County murderers to get out of prison
Of the 103 clemencies that outgoing California Governor Jerry Brown granted on Christmas Eve to people who have been convicted of killing at least one person, three of them were for cases from San Joaquin County. And of those three cases, two of the recipients of executive clemency are now eligible for parole while the third will be eligible in 2021.
Manteca Bulletin

He killed a Ceres man because his uncle said "get rid of" him. He was given clemency.
When Sean Robert Benge was convicted of first-degree murder in the 2005 shooting of Steven Glenn Brown, a Stanislaus County judge sentenced him to life in prison without parole. But he could get his first chance at freedom seven years from now. On Dec. 24, Gov. Jerry Brown commuted Benge's sentence to 25 years to life in prison with an opportunity for parole.
Modesto Bee

Los Angeles County

LA County Sheriff Alex Villanueva has big - and controversial - plans for the beleaguered department
Newly elected Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva began his shrievalty Dec. 3 when he was sworn in at East Los Angeles College following a vote counting process that lasted weeks after Election Day in a close race with incumbent Jim McDonnell. As the county's 33rd sheriff, Villanueva has promised to "reform, rebuild and restore" the Sheriff's Department.
Pasadena Weekly

Call-out for sheriff's deputies
The Lancaster City Council at its Dec. 11 meeting established a hybrid law enforcement model, appointed Public Safety Director Lee D'Errico police chief and directed staff to hire a consultant firm to develop options for the city to work in partnership with the Lancaster Sheriff's Station. The goal was to let the Sheriff's Department focus on what they do best while a group of retired deputies can focus on the quality-of-life issues that take a lot of time.
Antelope Valley Press

Former Santa Clarita mayor announces candidacy for Los Angeles City Council
Former Santa Clarita City mayor and councilman Frank Ferry has announced his intentions to run for the 12th District Los Angeles City Council seat. The 12th District, located in the northern part of the San Fernando Valley, includes approximately 250,000 residents currently represented by Councilman Mitchell Englander. However, Englander, the sole Republican sitting on the 15-seat L.A. City Council, announced in October of last year he would be stepping away from public office to pursue other job opportunities, according to Ferry.
The Signal

California, legal group reach agreement on old voter records
State election officials and a conservative legal group have reached a settlement over how California handles records of inactive voters. At issue was how election officials were handling records of voters who hadn't voted in repeated elections and were not part of active voter rolls in the state. The conservative group Judicial Watch filed a 2017 lawsuit charging that Los Angeles County and the state were failing to meet federal requirements and ensure those inactive registrations were removed from records.
AP

Firefighters' fateful choices: How the Woolsey fire became an unstoppable monster
It was clear from the beginning that the Woolsey fire had the potential to be a monster. It broke out mid-afternoon Nov. 8 on Boeing property near the Santa Susana Pass, fueled by strengthening winds and burning toward populated areas. But during the critical first hours, the Woolsey fire took second priority.
Los Angeles Times

Hundreds remember Roberta Weintraub as a 'master' at building a better L.A.
Roberta Weintraub was remembered Sunday as a tenacious, fearless and devoted Los Angeles leader, as hundreds gathered to say farewell to the longtime former school board member whose leadership cascaded into a robust career in public service. An estimated 400 friends and

colleagues came to the Los Angeles Police Academy, near Dodger Stadium, to remember that service, which before she died Jan. 1 at 83 spanned decades in L.A. as an educator, a philanthropist, a school board member and staunch law enforcement advocate.
Los Angeles Daily News

Women's jail project may not have votes to move forward
Los Angeles County's plan to retrofit an immigration detention center in Lancaster as a women's jail, long opposed by criminal justice advocates, may not have the votes it needs to move forward. Supervisor Sheila Kuehl issued a statement Monday saying the location of the proposed women's jail at Mira Loma "poses significant, and in my opinion, insurmountable obstacles to our goal of creating a women's jail that is the centerpiece of a gender-responsive corrections system.
NBC4

Marines 'invade' Catalina Island to fix crumbling airstrip at Airport in the Sky
The sky was a gloomy gunmetal gray Monday as dozens of U.S. Marines swarmed the notoriously tricky airstrip high atop Santa Catalina Island. By days end, the Airport in the Sky resembled a war zone full of heavy machinery, trucks, troops in camouflage and green military tents. The squadron was on a mission to fix a problem that can make takeoffs and landings a daunting prospect for even the most experienced pilots: potholes, rocks and loose chunks of asphalt on the 75-year-old runway.
Los Angeles Times

Convictions / Sentences

Woman admits to involuntary manslaughter for fatal shooting of boyfriend in Canoga Park
A woman who shot and killed her boyfriend in the parking lot of a Canoga Park bar last year in what she claimed was an accident pleaded no contest Friday to a charge of involuntary manslaughter, authorities said. Reyanna Villarreal, 24, of Newhall is expected to be sentenced to five years in state prison when she returns to court for sentencing later this month under a negotiated plea arrangement, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office said in a written statement.
KTLA

Daycare worker sentenced to 25 years to life for molesting 2 girls
A 20-year-old Buena Park man was sentenced Friday to 25 years to life in prison today for sexually assaulting two girls, ages 6 and 7, at the Anaheim daycare center where he worked. Daniel Antonio Martinez pleaded guilty in August to three counts of lewd acts on a child 14 and younger and three counts of sexual penetration of a child 10 and younger, according to Deputy District Attorney Rick Zimmer.

City News Service

Pair sentenced to 4 years in prison for street-racing crash that killed innocent driver in Torrance
The parents of an innocent driver who was killed in a street-racing crash in Torrance were overcome with grief and outrage Monday before a judge sentenced the two men responsible for his death to four years in state prison. Luis Samaniego Barajas and Zachary Frank Leets, both 20, did not address the family of Maximillian Alexis Rojas and showed no emotion as they listened to victim impact statements in Torrance Superior Court.
Long Beach Press-Telegram

She embezzled $2.5 million from LA charter school she founded: Guilty!
The founder of Los Angeles charter school network Celerity Educational Group pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiracy to misappropriate and embezzle public funds. Vielka McFarlane admitted in a plea agreement filed in federal court in Los Angeles that she misspent $2.5 million in public education funds intended for Celerity students.
My News LA

Woman may serve 13 years for probation violation
A woman who avoided prison time three years ago, will now be serving 13 years for violating probation in a crime she committed as a juvenile. The 19-year-old was transferred to Sutter County Jail from Juvenile Hall Friday while awaiting a transfer hearing for an assault with a semi-automatic gun in December 2017, when she was 17. That alleged assault put her in violation of the Yuba County probation she was placed on in 2015 in connection to a gang-related melee in the Marysville Save Mart.
Appeal-Democrat

Consumer Information

Amazon falls into an abyss of fraud, fakes and scams
Amazon has just been recognized as the world's most valuable company. Starting in 1994 as an online bookseller, Amazon inexplicably grew into the largest e-commerce company in the world. How is this possible, simply selling the same products as other worldwide retailers, while supporting the same warehouses, shipping networks and financial systems?
Counterfeit Report

The Weather Channel app sued over claims it sold location data
The Los Angeles City Attorney's office issued a cloudy forecast with the possibility of civil penalties for the popular Weather Channel app Friday, claiming it repeatedly violated the privacy of consumers. In a civil lawsuit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, city prosecutors allege that

The Weather Channel app led users to believe that it would use location data to provide them with "personalized local weather data, alerts and forecasts" but instead transmitted that data to third parties.
NBC News

California / National

Do I need the Real ID? And other questions about the new California driver's license
There's been a lot of confusion surrounding the so-called Real ID in California. The federally mandated upgrade has caused long lines at Department of Motor Vehicles offices statewide. Then came the news that the California DMV issued 2.3 million Real ID cards that didn't technically meet federal guidelines. So let's clear a few things up. Do I need a Real ID card?
SF Gate

Jerry Brown transformed California's justice system - twice
One of the advantages of being in government for 50 years, says California Gov. Jerry Brown, is "you get to make mistakes that you then get to correct." For Brown, one of those missteps was the criminal justice overhaul he oversaw as a young governor during two terms from 1975 to 1983. Now 80, he leaves office Monday after again reshaping the system during the past eight years.
NBC4

The Trump administration's misleading spin on immigration, crime and terrorism
President Trump and top administration officials say they want a border wall because thousands of criminals and terrorists are stopped or arrested every year by U.S. authorities. But the numbers they are citing in televised remarks and submitting in writing to members of Congress are being spun pretty heavily.
Washington Post

'More aggressive and in your face': Newsom takes power in California
Gavin Newsom sweeps into the California governor's mansion Monday hinting that he'll take a more confrontational posture toward Donald Trump in Washington, but his biggest challenge may be dealing with a friendly Democratic supermajority in Sacramento. A former mayor of San Francisco who served as outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown's understudy for eight years, Newsom takes office as the golden boy of the California Democratic Party's self-styled resistance, promising "Courage, for a Change."
Politico

Passing the torch, California Gov. Jerry Brown tells Newsom, 'don't screw it up'

Depending on how you interpreted Gavin Newsom's campaign slogan "Courage For a Change," he either has more courage than Jerry Brown - his campaign says that's not what they meant - or that Newsom has the courage needed to bring about big changes. For a man who often struggled to win Brown's praise or even his attention, it's an attempt to promise fresh ideas and perhaps a willingness to embrace issues the outgoing governor left for others, such as single-payer health care.
KVCR

Kamala Harris memoir addresses her past as California prosecutor
As she nears a decision on whether to seek the presidency, Sen. Kamala Harris is taking on what could be a hurdle in a Democratic primary: her past as a prosecutor. In her memoir published Tuesday, the California Democrat describes herself as a "progressive prosecutor" and says it's a "false choice" to decide between supporting the police and advocating for greater scrutiny of law enforcement.
AP

Wealth, poverty, and flight: The same old State of California
California ranks first among the states in the percentage of residents over 25 who have never finished the ninth grade - 9.7 percent of California residents, or about 4 million Californians. It also rates 49th in the number of state residents who never graduated from high school - or about 18 percent of the current population. In other words, about 7 million Californians do not possess a high-school diploma, about equal to the size of the nine counties of California's Bay Area, roughly from Napa to Silicon Valley.
National Review

Guns

California's 'slow motion handgun ban' challenged to Supreme Court
A legal challenge to California's controversial microstamping law that has effectively outlawed the commercial sale of new semi-auto handgun models in the state is being sent to the nation's high court. The microstamping mandate, part of California's Unsafe Handgun Act, was upheld by a 2-1 panel of the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals last August in the case of Pena v. Lindley.
Guns.com

California bill would limit number of guns people can buy to one per month as state's new governor takes swipe at gun lobby
A bill has been reintroduced in the California state legislature that would limit the number of guns Californians can purchase to just one per month. A similar measure was vetoed last year by outgoing Gov. Jerry Brown. It comes as another Democrat, Gavin Newsom, takes the reins Monday as the state's 40th governor. Newsom took a swipe at the gun

lobby and Trump administration in his inaugural address.
CNBC

What we know about the effectiveness of universal gun background checks
This Tuesday, newly dominant House Democrats revealed legislation that would require all gun buyers go through a background check, regardless of whether they buy a weapon from a licensed dealer, collector at a gun show, or stranger in a parking lot. Universal background checks are popular and enjoy political momentum. Poll after poll shows they win near universal approval.
The Trace

Corrections

Hard to digest: Inmates eat holiday steak during shutdown while prison workers go unpaid
The partial government shutdown created a delicious irony at federal prisons - inmates dining on lavish holiday meals in front of disgruntled staffers forced to work without pay. The striking dynamic played out at dozens of prisons across the country on Christmas and New Year's Day, several workers told NBC News, aggravating staffers who were already fretting about bills to pay and children to feed.
NBC News

Inmate stabs correctional officer at central California prison
Authorities say an inmate at a state prison in central California stabbed a correctional officer at a drug abuse treatment facility. Officials said Monday that California State Prison-Corcoran inmate Jubenal Mendoza distracted prison staff while inmate Edwin Perez used a makeshift weapon to stab the officer on the head and neck. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation says the officer, who was not identified, was taken to a hospital after the attack Sunday and is recovering at home.
AP

Transgender inmate alleges abuse, sues California prison system
A transgender inmate is suing California's prison system, alleging she was abused and demeaned by guards and spent nine months in solitary after reporting a cellmate had raped her. Candice Crowder sued the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on Monday. The lawsuit says Crowder was raped in 2015 in Corcoran prison but her efforts to report the attack were ignored.
KTLA

Homeless

The reluctant undertakers
When Reverend Dr. Catriona Laing arrived at her office several weeks

ago, she found a note from a parishioner that a homeless member of her congregation had committed suicide on a construction site nearby. Citing confidentiality, the city wouldn't provide any information on the man's death. Through the grapevine of churches like hers who serve the city's homeless, however, she was able to determine the details, confirm that his next of kin had been notified, and host a memorial service.
Citylab

Inmate firefighter escapee caught in Coachella
An inmate firefighter who escaped from a minimum-security facility in Northern California and was on the lam for nearly a week was arrested during a traffic stop in Coachella on Saturday. The Riverside County District Attorney's Office said Nicolas Dunning, 32, who fled the Konocti Conservation Camp in Lake County, was located "based on investigative leads" and was arrested without incident by members of the Riverside County Gang Impact Team, which includes law enforcement personnel from various local, state and federal agencies.
Riverside Press-Enterprise

Media

Read the memo: LA Times losing big on search traffic
There's a lot that has been going right at the Los Angeles Times in recent months. New hires and bureaus, kick-ass stories, and a fresh sense of optimism about the future as my colleague Bill Boyarsky explained in a recent series of columns for Truthdig. What is apparently not going as well are the website metrics. As anyone who regularly visits the Times website knows, finding news you want on the poorly organized and tagged pages can be challenging.
LA Observed

Why Facebook's hate-speech policy makes so little sense
A recent New York Times article disclosed details of Facebook's global effort to block hate speech and other ostensibly offensive content. As the article explains, Facebook has good reason to worry that some people use its platform not just to offend but to undermine democracies and even to incite deadly violence. Yet Facebook's response seems curious, even perverse.
Verdict

Pensions

Brown cut retirement debt bigger than pensions
Most large private-sector companies and some government employers do not provide retiree health care. But state workers not only get state-paid health care in retirement, they often pay less for it than they did while working. On the job, the state usually pays 80 percent of the average worker health care premium. The state pays 100 percent of the average retiree premium and 90 percent for dependents, if the worker

had 20 years or more of service.
Calpensions

Pensionomics 2018: Measuring the economic impact of defined benefit pension expenditures
Economic gains attributable to defined benefit (DB) pensions in the U.S. are substantial. Retiree spending of pension benefits in 2016 generated $1.2 trillion in total economic output, supporting some 7.5 million jobs across the U.S. Pension spending also added a total of $202.6 billion to government coffers, as taxes were paid at federal, state and local levels on retirees' pension benefits and their spending in 2016.
National Institute on Retirement Security

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